

Kennedy Center

New Hampshire Avenue and the Rock Creek Parkway
Northwest Washington, D.C.

Metro Stop: Foggy Bottom/George Washington University (23rd & I St.)



The roots of the [John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts](#) date back to 1958 when President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the bipartisan legislation creating a National Cultural Center. This Center was to be an independent facility, self-sustaining, and privately funded, with the educational mission to present a wide variety of both classical and contemporary artistic performances.

Two months after President John F. Kennedy's assassination in November 1963, Congress designated the National Cultural Center as a living memorial to President Kennedy. President Kennedy was a lifelong supporter and advocate of the arts. The Center made its public debut on September 8, 1971, and today is one of the country's most active and popular cultural centers.

Free guided tours of the Kennedy Center are given by the Friends of the Kennedy Center and feature the Hall of States and Hall of Nations, the Center's main theaters, and dozens of paintings, sculptures, and other artworks given to the Center by foreign countries.

Times of Operation

The Kennedy Center is open daily, including federal holidays. Free guided tours on a walk-in basis are available from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 10:00 a.m.

to 1:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. No advanced reservations are required. Tours depart from the parking plaza on Level A. An information desk is located in the Hall of States, or for more information, call (202) 416-8340 (TTY 416-5824).

Metro Shuttle Information

The Kennedy Center provides a free shuttle (signs are towards the left as you exit the escalator) from the Foggy Bottom/George Washington University Metro Station. The shuttle departs every 15 minutes from 9:45 a.m. to midnight, Monday through Friday; 10:00 a.m. to midnight on Saturdays; noon to midnight on Sundays; and 4:00 p.m. to midnight on federal holidays.

[Congressional Reserved Tours Information](#)

Kennedy Center Links

- [Kennedy Center Website](#)
- [Plan Your Visit](#)
- [Map of the Kennedy Center](#)
- [Accessibility Information](#)
- [Virtual Tour of the Kennedy Center](#)
- [Kennedy Center Performance Schedule](#)

Places of Interest Nearby

- [Rock Creek Park](#)

[Return to Tours and Tickets](#)

